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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the Central Emergency Response Fund,[2]

Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with grave concern the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, and reaffirming the need for sustainable measures at all levels to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards using an integrated, multi-hazard approach, and the importance of including disaster risk reduction as part of long-term and sustainable development strategies, taking

[1] A/61/85-E/2006/81.
[2] A/61/85/Add.1-E/2006/81/Add.1.

into account the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[4]

Noting also with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate resources for humanitarian assistance and with a view to ensuring more equitable distribution across humanitarian emergencies as well as fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations to improve humanitarian response, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, by improving humanitarian coordination, and by enhancing predictable and adequate funding,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome of the ninth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council, held during its substantive session of 2006;

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance and calls upon relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors, to pursue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening the humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance at the field level, including with national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing transparency, performance and accountability;

4. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for capacity-building of local authorities and local and national non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing humanitarian assistance;

5. *Emphasizes* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, reaffirms the leading role of civilian organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, particularly in areas affected by conflicts, and affirms the need, in situations where military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, for their use to be in conformity with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to develop more systematic links with Member States offering military assets for natural disaster response in order to identify the availability of such assets;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with States and relevant organizations, to further develop and improve, as required, mechanisms for

[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2.

the use of emergency standby capacities, including, where appropriate, regional humanitarian capacities, under the auspices of the United Nations, inter alia, through formal agreements with appropriate regional organizations;

8. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement of and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response and encourages the United Nations to pursue recent efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

9. *Reiterates* the need for a more effective, efficient, coherent, coordinated and better-performing United Nations country presence, with a strengthened role for the senior United Nations resident official responsible for the coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance, including appropriate authority, resources and accountability;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including through the provision of necessary training, the identification of resources, and improving the identification and selection of United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators;

11. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations, to support the improvements of the consolidated appeals process, inter alia, by engaging in the preparation of needs analysis and common action plans, in order to further development of the process as an instrument for United Nations strategic planning and prioritization, and by involving other relevant humanitarian organizations in the process, while reiterating that consolidated appeals are prepared in consultation with affected States;

12. *Calls upon* United Nation humanitarian organizations to further develop common mechanisms to improve their transparency and the reliability of their humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance, and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

13. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, predictable and flexible resources based on, and in proportion to, assessed needs and to encourage efforts to implement the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship;

14. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Central Emergency Response Fund as set out in General Assembly resolution 60/124 of 15 December 2005 and the fact that fifty-four donors have pledged 297,900,000 million United States dollars in the first year of operations, notes the assessment of the Secretary-General on its initial functioning as reflected in his report on the Fund[2] and looks forward to the independent review in 2008;

15. *Also welcomes* the Secretary-General's efforts to set up appropriate reporting and accountability mechanisms for the Fund, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the resources are allocated and used in the most efficient, effective and transparent manner possible;

16. *Urges* all Member States and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider making voluntary contributions to the Fund, reaffirms the target of 500 million dollars by 2008, and emphasizes that

contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

17. *Reiterates* that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding;

18. *Urges* all Member States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

19. *Calls upon* all Member States and encourages the relevant organizations of the United Nations to strengthen support services, including psychosocial support, to victims of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies;

20. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel as well as delivery of supplies and equipment in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

21. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

22. *Calls upon* States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts as well as to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, as provided by national law and obligations under international law;

23. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[5] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for international support, upon request, to capacity-building efforts of States;

24. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of the discussion of humanitarian policies and activities in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and that these discussions should be continuously revitalized by Member States with a view to enhancing their relevance, efficiency and impact;

25. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council on humanitarian issues, based on their respective mandates and taking into account comparative advantages and existing complementarities of the two bodies;

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[5] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

26. *Decides*, in order to have a more focused and consolidated discussion on humanitarian issues, that the sub-items of its agenda related to the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations currently considered by the Second Committee shall be reallocated to its plenary as of its sixty-second session;

27. *Recalls* the request to the Secretary-General, in the ninth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council, to include in his report lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the pilot projects using the cluster approach, in consultation with affected countries and with the active involvement of relevant United Nations humanitarian entities;[6]

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2007, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and to submit a report to the Assembly through the Council on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

[6] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/5 of 18 July 2006, para. 26.